

Message Text

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71

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1811

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGARD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19128

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, PINS

SUBJECT: JEWISH EMIGRATION IN NOVEMBER - HIGHEST FIGURE IN TWO YEARS

REF MOSCOW 18402

1. NETHERLANDS EMBOFF TOLD US DECEMBER 3 THAT 1683 (1293 ADULTS AND 390 DEPENDENTS) ISRAELI ENTRY VISAS WERE ISSUED TO SOVIET JEWS DURING NOVEMBER. THIS MONTHLY TOTAL IS 19 PERCENT GREATER THAN THE TOTAL FOR

OCTOBER AND IS THE LARGEST MONTHLY TOTAL SINCE OCTOBER 1974, WHEN 1900 VISAS WERE ISSUED. TOTAL TO DATE IN 1976 IS 12,765, MAKING IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT 1976 WILL BE FIRST YEAR SINCE 1973 IN WHICH RATE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION WILL HAVE INCREASED OVER RATE OF IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR.

2. URBAN JEWS CONTINUE TO PREDOMINATE AMONG EMIGRANTS RECEIVING SOVIET VISAS, AND SOURCE NOTED THAT JEWS FROM ODESSA AND MOLDAVIA MADE UP AN UNUSUALLY LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE NOVEMBER TOTAL. SINCE ODESSANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AMONG SOVIET EMIGRANTS MOST LIKELY TO RESETTLE IN WEST RATHER THAN IN ISRAEL, THE "DROP-OUT" PERCENTAGE AMONG NOVEMBER EMIGRANTS WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE HIGH. SOURCE TOLD US THAT HIS EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE ANY VYZOVs FOR FORWARDING TO SOVIET JEWS DURING NOVEMBER, BUT PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS CONTINUE TO INQUIRE CONCERNING INVITATIONS WHICH THEY HAVE REQUESTED THROUGH NETHERLANDS EMBASSY CHANNEL.

3. EMBASSY PROCESSED 193 SOVIET EMIGRANTS WITH EXIT PERMISSION

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FOR US DURING NOVEMBER, 35 OF WHOM WERE JEWISH.

4. COMMENT - NOVEMBER IS THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF EMIGRATING SOVIET JEWS HAS INCREASED. MOREOVER, THE PARTICULARLY HIGH NOVEMBER TOTAL WAS REGISTERED AS TRANSITION TO NEW ADMINISTRATION BEGAN IN WASHINGTON. SOVIETS MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT PROSPECTS FOR FAVORABLE TRADE LEGISLATION IN 1977 COULD BE ENHANCED BY NOTICEABLE RISE IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION. HOWEVER, IT WILL TAKE TIME AND ADDITIONAL DATA BEFORE WE WILL BE ABLE TO SURMISE THAT THE NEW FIGURES DO PORTEND A CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY.
MATLOCK

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